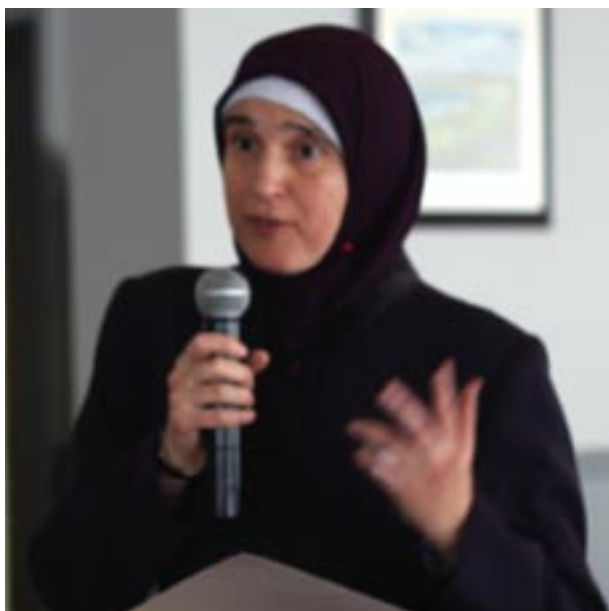


## Hijabis face off against Harper

*Women in Peel, Muslim or not, marked the period around International Women's Day with statements about women's rights and responsibilities. Muslim women are writing books, making speeches, and two Muslim women are seeking elected office in Peel – Rabia Khedr to become a councillor in Mississauga's Ward Four, and Farheen Khan to become an MP in Mississauga Centre. Here are their comments.*



### Muslim women want to Make It Happen

BY MONIA MAZIGH

**T**his year, the theme of International Women's Day is "Make it Happen". So how, as Muslim women, can we make things happen?

Three important steps:

- Look at our strengths
- Build networks with other women
- Reclaim our narrative

As women, we are built to be strong. Physically, emotionally and mentally. However, our environment constantly reminds us to sit down and be weak.

When my husband was arrested by the U.S. and sent to Syria to be tortured and imprisoned, people looked at me and whispered: "How is she going to do it?" "Fighting a lost cause."

But I did it. How? By looking inside me for strength, by building a network and by reclaiming my own narrative.

*Continued on P. 6*



### Security or civil liberties -- is this a choice?

BY FARHEEN KHAN

**O**ver the last months, controversy has surrounded Bill C-51 better known by its ironic name, "the Anti-Terrorism bill," that has been proposed by the Harper Conservatives. The bill itself has little to do with addressing radicalization and more to do with limiting our Canadian rights and freedoms.

The bill, offered as legislation providing added security and safety from terrorists and potential terrorists, is far too ambiguous, broad, and overreaching with no oversight and plan for de-radicalization. As a result, many have spoken up against it, including four former Prime Ministers of Canada, former members of the Supreme Court, many legislators, civil and human rights groups and academics.

Further, concerned citizens stood up in solidarity against this bill, resulting in what became the "National Day of Action against Bill C-51".

*Continued on P. 6*



### What's in a fabric? Can it be 'othering'?

BY RABIA KHEDR

**T**imes are just getting tougher. With poverty on the rise, lack of affordable housing, significant rates of youth unemployment, etc., the future looks grim. Tensions are imminent in society when people feel a sense of being marginalized. 'Othering' becomes a convenient scapegoating tool.

Those in positions of power find an opportunity to manipulate the masses without any rhyme or reason. Ideologies are intentionally made to clash -- to polarize and pit Canadians against one another. A divide and conquer tactic is cutting through the very fabric of our heart as a nation that values individuality, human dignity and diversity.

A minuscule number of women are singled out and labeled, contradicting Canadian values, distracting us from matters far more important. Our tax dollars are wasted in a war of words and legalese when we have bigger concerns.

*Continued on P. 6*

## Did You Know?

### PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) is open to every individual and organization in Peel Region that cares about what poverty does to people.

It provides a safe place where people who are cash-poor and those who try to help them are encouraged to speak out-- and Tough Times is part of that safe place.

The Group's mandate is to advocate for people in need and to educate the public about poverty issues.

Membership is free. Meetings take place at 9.15 a.m. the second Thursday of every month, alternately in Mississauga or Brampton.

[www.ppag.wordpress.com](http://www.ppag.wordpress.com)

## Homeless: The Video

*Spaces and Places: Uncovering Homelessness in the Region of Peel* is a 15-minute video in which homeless people describe their experiences.

A team from PPAG including a once-homeless person, will show the video to a group on request. There is no charge.

To book a showing contact [ppagactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:ppagactiongroup@gmail.com). Allow about 45 minutes for the video and discussion.

The video was made by a team from York University, in cooperation with the Social Planning Council of Peel, financed by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Download at:  
<http://ppag.wordpress.com/spaces-and-places-video/>



## Down-Turn Abbey

### ***Want to skate, swim, use a gym, or go to summer camp, but don't have the money?***

Mississauga has a plan to help cash-poor people use the City's recreation centres and take part in its programs. It's called ActiveAssist and it consists of providing a credit of \$275 per person per year for people who otherwise cannot afford the city's fees for recreation.

More than 42,000 Mississauga residents have been approved to use the credit, more than 33,000 of them children and youth.

There's no extra cost to taxpayers because programs are already in place but not fully booked.

If you are a Mississauga resident with income below the Low Income Cut Off, you may qualify for a credit.

*Check out ActiveAssist at any City of Mississauga Community Centre or at Central Library in the City Centre, or phone 905 615-4100.*

### ***Caledon Community Services is getting more than \$353,000 to help 24 youth in Bolton enter the job market or return to school.***



The young people are learning time management and communication and will gain work experience with local employers in construction, health services or website management.

Also helping youth find work: the Canada Job Grant, apprenticeship grants and the Canada Apprentice Loan.

Plus tax credits for the costs of tuition, education and textbooks, trade tools, and an Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit.

### ***Brampton is hoping to increase the supply of affordable places to stay.***

As *Tough Times* went to press, councillors were discussing the rules for homeowners to have secondary units, such as basement apartments. Mississauga already has rules (and apartments) in place.

### ***Settlement and social services to newcomers to Canada***



"Immigrant women have the potential to contribute to Peel region's economic success, yet their skills are not being utilized" says Dima Amad, Director of Program and Services at Brampton Multicultural Centre (BMC) which has been providing settlement and social services to newcomers for nearly 30 years.

A recent study is now under discussion to find ways to overcome barriers to employment of immigrant women.

*For more information, contact BMC at 905 790-8482.*

## ToughTimes

**Tough Times is published six times a year**

**Next issue: Summer 2015**  
**Deadline for ads and editorial: May 12, 2014.**

We encourage and welcome volunteer writers, reporters, artists, cartoonists, photographers, distributors and sales folk to join Tough Times.

Please email letters to:  
[toughtimestabloid@gmail.com](mailto:toughtimestabloid@gmail.com)

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Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG)

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## Advertising Rates

Tough Times distributes 10,000 copies, throughout Peel Region.

Target audience is people experiencing homelessness, using food banks and soup kitchens, people who are struggling, plus faith groups, social service agencies, trades unions, business people, and the general public.

**To advertise in Tough Times:**  
[toughtimestabloid@gmail.com](mailto:toughtimestabloid@gmail.com)  
Phone: 905 826-5041  
Mail address: 4 - 287 Glidden Road  
Brampton ON L6W 1H9, Canada

*Advertising rates: (colour included)*

**Business card: \$75**  
**1/16 page: \$85**  
**1/8 page: \$135**  
**1/4 page: \$205**  
**1/2 page: \$375**  
**3/4 page: \$515**  
**Full page: \$655**

*A full page is approximately 10 inches wide by 12 inches deep = 120 square inches. E&OE*



# When the lady is a c♀p ...

## SHE MAY BE ON THE SUNSHINE LIST

**P**eel Police Service is trying to be “reflective of the community it serves.” That means hiring people who may have a disability, or come from a variety of ethnic groups; and in terms of gender, more than half the force should be women.

But it's not going to happen any time soon, though the Service has a woman leading the way – in 2012, Jennifer Evans became Chief of Police, 30 years after joining the force as a cadet.

Fact is, women are not rushing to join Peel Police. Reports show that 87 women applied in 2013 – while 987 men put their names in. As for hiring, retirement is the main creator of vacancies among police officers. Peel hired 15 women and 44 men in 2013. None were aboriginal; none had a disability.

Peel Police is an equal pay employer. Tough Times' quick count of the Sunshine List, where the names and salaries of government employees are posted if they are paid more than \$100,000 a year, showed 112 women in Peel Police reaching six figures, with Chief Evans leading the way just short of \$230,000. And note that some of the \$100K women (*Tough Times* guessed at gender by first name) are constables, while



Inspector Sandra Trepte leads a contingent of women officers at the 2015 International Women's Day luncheon in Mississauga, an event sponsored by the Canadian Labour Congress. (Photo by Sophia Ramsay)

women senior officers received well above \$100,000.

For police, men or women, it's not just the pay that's good. The Police Service is also committed to hiring the best person for the job, and must “provide a workplace free of systemic discrimination.”

Here's a statement from Consider the Benefits, on the Peel Police Service website:

“At Peel Regional Police, we're committed to supporting our employees both on and off the job. In addition to offering a salary rate that is competitive with any of the other GTA Services, we offer one of the most comprehensive benefit and wellness programs available in the sector. From wellness protection for you and your family, to structured programs to nurture your intellectual, physical, and emotional wellness ...”

That means employer-paid health, dental, and life insurance until age 65, pensions providing 70% of the average of your best five years earnings, competitive salaries, shift differentials, uniform and dry cleaning allowances, tuition paid for approved courses, up to eight weeks vacation, onsite nurse, massage therapist, fitness classes and state of the art fitness facilities.

And here's the female benefit: pregnancy and parental leave top-ups, summer and holiday child care programs and elder care access.

Only the finest for the finest!

*The salaries quoted are from the 2013 Sunshine List. A more recent list may be available that will yield a higher number of women, including civilians, in Peel Police Service. E&OE.*

### Unifor Local 1285 Remembers

*On April 28th, Unifor Local 1285 Members will pause to observe and remember those workers killed or injured on the job, and those who suffer from workplace related-illness.*

*On this somber day and all days going forward, we must fight to keep our workplaces safe and ensure that all workers make it home safely to their loved ones after each day of hard work.*



WWW.UNIFORLOCAL1285.CA

### Day of Mourning April 28th, 2015



*Milestones of Labour Monument  
Flower City Community Campus, Brampton*



# Where Seva serves

BY NEEVA SANDHU

**S**eva Food Bank, set up by Sikhs Serving Canada in 2010, established its first boundaries by postal code. It served the L5B and L5C in Mississauga – the Credit River to Hurontario, Highway 403 to the Queen Elizabeth Way -- providing food to about 1100 families in the area.

Then in 2013, Seva Food Bank expanded its operation to the Malton area, where it serves another 800 families. And that's just the beginning. In the next few months, Seva's Malton operation will build a community kitchen.

Seva Food Bank strives to provide access to safe, nutritious, and culturally-appropriate food to all its food bank users.

It operates like a grocery store. While many food banks provide boxes or hampers of food selected by staff or volunteers, Seva provides a shopping cart where clients go through the aisles choosing food for themselves. A volunteer walks with them to help choose the correct amount of quantity based on family size.

We not only provide non-perishable canned

goods, but fresh produce, fresh milk, eggs and occasionally meat. We also provide not just western food like pasta, cereals, peanut butter, but dry lentils, spices etc. according to an individual's cultural background. The grocery store model assures that clients get food they will actually eat, and leave foods they don't want for someone else.

Seva Food Bank also offers projects and activities, hoping to reduce the causes and consequences of food insecurity and enhance the quality of life of the community.

A Food Literacy program in partnership with Four Corners Health teaches nutrition and how to cook healthy food on a budget. A new recipe is every month, using a feature vegetable. When clients arrive for their monthly shopping visit, they also receive a bowl of the healthy and low budget recipe to taste. Recipe bags containing the instructions and ingredients can be taken home.

Other programs include: A homework club (Malton only) on Mondays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., to help children with homework, reading skills and arts

and crafts; tax clinics; introduction to Mississauga Community Legal Services.

The food bank is open more hours now, to reach people who need its help.

## MALTON

2832 Slough Street  
Mississauga, L4T 1G2

Monday	4 – 8 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thursday	2 – 6 p.m.

## WOLFEDALE

3413 Wolfedale rd.  
L5C 1V8

Wednesday	4 – 8 p.m.
Thursday	4 – 8 p.m.
Friday	12 – 4 p.m.

Go to [www.sevafoodbank.com](http://www.sevafoodbank.com) for more information.

## WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE?

**LOTS OF US ARE WORRIED ABOUT JOBS, OR FINDING THE HEALTH CARE WE NEED FOR OUR FAMILIES. WE CAN CHANGE THAT.**

Let's work together for a better Canada

[canadianlabour.ca](http://canadianlabour.ca)



[www.facebook.com/clc.ctc](http://www.facebook.com/clc.ctc)



@CanadianLabour



Canadian Labour Congress

Congrès du travail du Canada

# Paying to park at Peel Living

If you live in social housing, should your friends pay to park their cars when they visit you?

Should the counsellors and therapists who visit in order to help you, have to pay for parking, or park on the street and maybe get a ticket?

Peel Living is a non-profit housing corporation run by the Region of Peel, and most residents receive some form of income support from government.

Parking meters are in place at some of Peel Living's buildings and Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) sees the practice as unfair. PPAG suggests that paying for parking is a deterrent to visitors, some of whom may be living in poverty, and that it is a barrier to social and psychological support for residents.

A quick check by PPAG covered 16 of the 70 Peel Living buildings, and revealed that six of the 16 have parking meters charging \$1.50 an hour. The remaining 10 buildings had different conditions of parking



for visitors including: parking by permit only with few parking spots; tenants entitled to only six free visitors' parking a month.

Service providers visiting seniors in the buildings report that there are few or even no designated parking spots for them, and that parking in unauthorised

places sometimes results in traffic tickets. They pay the tickets -- then have to explain to their supervisors why they were improperly parked in the first place.

At press time, Peel Living had not responded to phone calls on the parking issue.

## NORTH PEEL & DUFFERIN Community Legal Services

- Free legal services for low income residents of Brampton, Caledon and Dufferin County
- Problems with your landlord?
- Is your rent subsidy threatened?
- Was your application for Ontario Disability Support Program benefits denied?
- Problems with Ontario Works?

905-455-0160 Toll Free from Dufferin 1-866-455-0160 npdinfo@lao.on.ca

## Celebrate Knight's Table's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Third Annual Gala | Friday, June 5, 2015

Cocktails 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m.

Tickets \$125 each or \$850 for a table of 8  
Phone 905 454-8725

Pearson Convention Centre  
2638 Steeles Avenue East, Brampton



## Representing Peel's Public Elementary Teachers.

*Promoting Social Justice  
in our classrooms.*



Peel Elementary  
Teachers' Local

etfopeel.com  
@ETFOPeel



# Hijabis speak up *Continued from p. 1*



PEEL'S WOMEN LEADERS took part in the Federation of Muslim Women's celebration of International Women's Day. From left: Monia Mazigh; Mississauga Coun. Pat Saito; Razia Syeda, president of the Minhaj-ul-Quran Women's League; Peel United Way executive director Shelley White; Peel Police Chief Jennifer Evans; Rabia Khedr, spokesperson for the Federation of Muslim Women; Federation chair Dr. Salsa Jaizan; Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie; Zunera Ishaq who has asserted her right to wear niqab while taking the oath of Canadian citizenship; MPP Dipika Dameria.

## Monia Mazigh...

When I ran federally in 2004 for the New Democratic Party, some analysts and journalists said "she is a sacrificial lamb" But I gathered more than 8,000 votes.

For many centuries, Muslim women have been portrayed in books as passive, oppressed, victims of their religion, victims of their traditions or victims of their own men. Today, the stigma is still there. We are still suffering from the same stereotypes. In the media, we are either totally absent or victims.

Muslim women's fate was an alibi for colonialism and even today it is still used as a justification to go to war. So how can we "Make it happen?" It is time to be pro-active in re-shaping all the different pictures of Muslim women. Not only the oppressed, the victims, or the absent. But also the smart, the hard-working, the struggling, the activist, the artist, the sensible, the ones who do NOT necessarily need to be saved from someone else.

I am not saying we have to tell the story of The Muslim Woman, as we don't exist as only one story or only one woman. We are different and complementary in our views, in our visions, in our practice of Islam.

But the challenge is to give our own version of the stories. The challenge is to define ourselves before others do it for us. So I started writing articles of opinion, but also stories about Muslim women. As I observe them, as I interact with them. As I imagine them.

My latest book is entitled *Mirrors and Mirages*. It is a novel about the lives of Muslim women in Canada.

*Monia Mazigh was born and raised in Tunisia, immigrated to Canada in 1991, and lives in Ottawa with her husband Maher Arar and their two children. She holds a PhD in finance from McGill University and speaks Arabic, French, and English.*

*In 2002 her husband was deported to Syria where he was tortured and held without charge for over a year. Her book *Hope and Despair: My Struggle to Free My Husband Maher Arar*, was published in November 2008. Her most recent book is a novel, *Mirrors and Images*.*

## Farheen Khan...

Across the country, 70 communities held rallies as "snap action," demonstrating dismay and concern about the bill. The Harper Conservatives are now considering revisions.

Still, many people are not aware of the possible repercussions of the bill itself. For example, most people don't realize that while the bill enables CSIS and the other 19 security agencies that support Canada to share information among ministries, with little oversight of the day-to-day activities of these groups. This means that if someone is detained upon suspicion for engaging in "anti-government" behaviour, there will be little or no recourse if the person is in fact falsely accused.

The other challenge is that the bill speaks about surveying all social media and taking action against anyone who posts what they deem to be a "terrorist" group or initiative. While this may not sound so bad, the trouble is that the term "terrorist" is used very loosely in the bill. At this point, any individual or group that attempts to threaten the country's economic or financial stability will be considered a "national security" threat. This for the first time includes groups such as civil and human rights groups, environmentalists and First Nations peoples.

We should not have to choose between our privacy and our safety. We reject fear and are sending a clear message to the Harper Conservatives that we will not be afraid.

*Born and raised in Mississauga, Farheen Khan is a Muslim, a published author, and wears hijab. A New Democrat, she is running in Mississauga Centre in the federal election. Also nominated to run in Mississauga Centre: Omar Alghabra for the Liberal Party; Julius Tiangson for the Conservatives.*

## Rabia Khedr ...

A piece of cloth worn or not worn is not the issue. Rather, power and privilege is on the line. As the forever optimist, I am checking in with reality and insisting not to sit back and let it happen. More than ever before, strong leadership for a society that is truly inclusive is necessary to ensure our Canadian values are kept intact.

Growing up in the Mississauga Valley community in the heart of Ward 4, I have benefitted from a Canada that opened its doors to immigrants.

I had access to education and hence access to employment, family and community. As a racialized woman with a disability, I was even empowered to explore my spirituality and choose to visibly express my faith when I graduated from UTM in 1993.

Today, I am a married mother of four, a career woman, an activist and candidate in Ward 4. My Mississauga is where every individual belongs and shares in the benefits that society has to offer. Our older adults, children, youth, women, newcomers, people with disabilities and diverse communities have to feel a sense of belonging.

As community leaders, we have to do our part to ensure that all voices are heard as decisions are made that impact people's lives. I am not so blind to ignore the fact that seeds are being rooted that will fuel racism, demonization and dehumanization of groups.

In a rights-based society, it is my duty, it is your duty, it is our duty, to make sure that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Human Rights Codes reigns supreme. So let's put our hands and hearts together and say, "My Canada includes everyone. We are going to make it happen. Yes, we can."

*Voting day is April 27 and Rabia Khedr is a candidate for councillor for Ward 4 in Mississauga. As well, she is a spokesperson for the Federation of Muslim Women, and executive director of the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities. Her particular disability is blindness. She chairs Mississauga's Accessibility Advisory Committee, set up by Mississauga Council.*

# Workers look beyond the safety issues

On Tuesday, April 28, Peel's citizens and dignitaries join together to honour Workers Killed or Injured in the Workplace. A monument in the workers' memory stands in the grounds of Flower City Seniors Centre, on the southwest corner of McLaughlin Road and Queen Street, Brampton. Ceremonies begin at 10 a.m.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) reports that every day, an average of four Canadian workers die as a result of workplace incidents, encounters, environment. And that number is not falling.

When Peel Region's workers commemorate the lives lost in the workplace this April 28, they are not merely visiting the past.

They are looking to the future, and preparing to fight for better working conditions, better government, even for the survival of the trade union movement.

"Union members have learned over the years that while fighting for improvements in their own workplaces is vital, in order to make lasting change we have to affect the social and economic policies of govern-

ments," the CLC declares.

With a federal election expected in October or earlier, Peel Regional Labour Council is looking at issues of special interest to its members and to all workers. In fact, Labour Council president Jim McDowell declares: "Strong and active unions are essential to all citizens."

He continues: "On average, unionized workers are paid \$5.11 an hour more than non-unionized. The bigger and more alert the unions, the better off the entire community becomes – not just union members but the businesses that supply the food and drink and recreation and homes that well-paid people need and can afford."

In its work towards the federal election, Peel's labour council identifies such issues as: reliable child care for working women; fair treatment for "temporary" foreign workers; a re-examination of so-called anti-terrorism legislation which labour believes undermines freedom in Canada; and a sensible plan for job creation.

And Peel's workers want safer workplaces everywhere.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Who dies on the job?

Men do – just short of 92% of workers dying as a result of the workplace are male.

Motor vehicles are involved in 40% of cases. And the dangerous age is 45-49.

In Ontario, 82 workplace fatalities occurred in 2013.

These statistics come via organizations registered with the Workers Safety Insurance Board (WSIB). Lots of organizations are not registered. Lots of deaths are not recorded as workplace events – sex workers killed and injured on the job for instance are not part of WSIB.

### Published statistics reveal:

Workers age 25-44 are about 70% of WSIB claimants following injury or illness on the job;

Beware of working too hard – overexertion is cited as a cause of strains and sprains among women providing health care supports, women cleaners, women sales clerks, and among male motor vehicle and transit drivers, longshoremen. Men are also at risk of being "struck by objects".

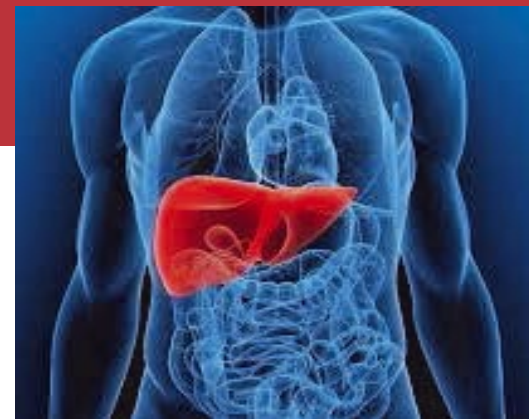
Back injuries are the cause of about a quarter of time-off-work incidents, with hand and arm problems next.

## Hepatitis C

### Treatment, Care & Support Is Available

#### You can be at risk if:

- Sharing of personal care and hygiene items such as razors, toothbrushes, clippers and scissors with someone living with hepatitis C
- Sharing needles used for body tattoos and piercings. Re-using and sharing tattoo ink and ink pots
- Sharing drug equipment such as needles, filters, tourniquets, water, syringes, cookers, alcohol swabs, acidifiers
- Receive blood and body organs that have not been screened for hepatitis C. Even in Canada, if you received blood and organ donations before 1990 you may be at risk.
- Involved in medical procedures including immunization in hepatitis C endemic countries



#### Contact:

**Bloom Clinic**

**40 Finchgate Blvd. Suite 224**

**Brampton, ON L6T 3J1**

**Phone: 905-451-6959 | mail@bramaleachc.ca**

*Call today for information or  
to book a free test.*



**Bloom Clinic**



# Six months a lifetime

## AN EXCERPT FROM A WORK IN PROGRESS

BY CRYSTAL MARK

In 2006, I came to know some of the deeper tragedies of life. I lost much more than I had won, and much of what I lost could never again be held. I won, yes, a child, who would come to grow as swiftly and defiantly as any weed pressing through concrete, nine years she has now. But I lost, lost much that year and much of it still blows like spores in the wind.

2006 saw the loss of my business, nearly my mind, and my Brother. This work, *Six Months a Lifetime*, chronicles the time of life Ojai Troy Smith was given on this Earth, the stories that wove the tapestry of his short life and the swift time between his being shot, what was expected to be his recovery, and his death. *Six Months a Lifetime* documents the many true, perceived and imagined perspectives of how my 'outside' brother became a pivotal and defining part of the intimate story of our lives.

His story grasps for light. From the dark shadows of death and the hidden places of Spirit, he still beckons to leave this world remembered. And there are many like him. Young. Black. Men. For too many, they are like a disappearing species, everyone is aware of their endangerment, yet not a single



Crystal Mark

pledge comes out of the collective circle. We continue to lose them, and with them, ourselves.

As a mother, a community builder, a giver, I tried to save him. Many of us cannot be saved by others. There are so many variables: fate, justice and lack thereof, time, season, hate, envy, duty, debt, pride, vengeance, lack of value for life. These are just some of the things that killed my brother and murdered many more out there. This storytelling took so long to come because it held great weight, the responsibility of so many deaths, to tell a story that was at once unique, yet universal. I relinquish that burden. There is no manner in which to reflect each life lost, nor should anyone be beholden to do so. Instead, I would rather encourage each of us to be bravely emboldened to utter each of our stories again and again till someone, everyone listens.

Ojai, I love you. I did what I could then. I do all that I can now. Know that your survival meant so very much to me. A

body can only take so much, Brother, I know you have earned your rest.

*Crystal Mark's brother Ojai was shot in a Toronto apartment building in 2006. No-one has ever been arrested or charged in his murder.*

# 241,933

**NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING**  
**JOUR NATIONAL DE DEUIL**

**THAT'S HOW MANY SERIOUS INJURIES, EXPOSURES AND ILLNESSES WERE REPORTED IN CANADIAN WORKPLACES IN 2013.**

**April 28 is the day we all work to make Canada's workplaces safer.**

[canadianlabour.ca/ontario-region](http://canadianlabour.ca/ontario-region)

[www.facebook.com/CLCOntario](https://www.facebook.com/CLCOntario)
[@CLCOntario](https://twitter.com/CLCOntario)

**Canadian Labour Congress**  
**Congrès du travail du Canada**



# Another day, another vote

## MISSISSAUGA COUNCIL ELECTION APRIL 27

A total of 26 candidates are vying for a seat on Mississauga Council to represent Ward 4, an area that includes Square One. Voting takes place Monday, April 27, 2015.

All candidates were offered free space in *Tough Times* to state their views of poverty and six were quoted in the February-March, 2015 issue: Amir Ali, Greg Dell, Joe Horneck, Mike Douglas, Rabia Khedr, and Sheraz Siddiqui.

### Here are poverty statements from some of the other candidates:



#### STEPHEN KING

Poverty in Mississauga is not being addressed and I am concerned that it will only get worse.

There are two primary causes of poverty: a lack of employment providing a living wage, and affordable housing.

Ward 4 has not seen affordable housing developed in a long time, but expensive condo developments. What we need are new office buildings and the jobs that come with them.

As your councillor I will address the issues of affordable housing and job creation.

Working together we can strive to make our community safe and affordable for all – a place where children don't have to go to food banks because they are hungry.



#### MICHAEL MADEJ

As an educator, I well understand poverty in Peel. I've seen its negative effect on families and students. The simple solution is better education for better jobs. However the global economy is taking traditional jobs out of Canada. We need to protect and stimulate job growth in our own neighbourhoods.

We need to lobby the provincial and federal governments to give Peel its fair share of tax revenues; to increase our social aid and aim towards improving education, rehabilitation, re-education and stimulating the creation of better jobs for low income families and individuals.



#### ANDREW McNEILL

Reducing poverty is a critical issue for every resident and business in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. Not only is it the moral thing to do, but it directly impacts every taxpayer in Peel Region. I am committed to being a strong champion for issues that can alleviate poverty in Peel: economic opportunities; affordable transit; food security; income security, and affordable and accessible housing.

#### *My priorities:*

Create an environment where small business can provide jobs at a decent wage; promote educational opportunities to help newcomers gain recognition for foreign credentials; work with the provincial and federal governments to make transit more affordable, accessible and convenient; support community gardening and farmers markets across the Region; champion new affordable rental housing projects in Peel and promote healthy and inclusive communities.

### Previously quoted candidates were also invited to expand on their views:

#### MIKE DOUGLAS

Should I be fortunate enough to get elected then the people who need help the most in our city will have a better advocate than they have ever enjoyed.

That's a promise I look forward to keeping.

#### GREG DELL

While we absolutely need to invest in and support food banks and shelters, I long to see the day when they are no longer necessary. We need to move beyond short-term thinking to develop solutions that reduce long-term reliance on food banks and encourage independence and success.

That means creating jobs and economic opportunity, ensuring people have the skills to get those jobs, ensuring they have affordable housing where they can live with their families in safety and comfort, and a reliable and efficient transportation system to get them from that affordable home to that quality job.

#### RABIA KHEDR

Rabia wrote a byline article in this issue of *Tough Times*, dealing with a variety of Muslim issues.

Behind every changed life is  
someone who made it happen.



You can be that someone.  
Give today at [unitedwaypeel.org/donate](http://unitedwaypeel.org/donate)



United Way  
Peel Region

Together, we are possibility.



# Pan Am games are on the way

BY ALLAN THOMPSON, *Mayor of Caledon*

**A**pril is an exciting month. On the first day of this month we will mark 100 days to the Pan Am Games. This is a significant time in the history of our Town, a time for us to show the world just how special Caledon is.

April is also special because it's a time for us to recognize the efforts of the many extraordinary people who give the gift of their time and talents through volunteerism.

Last month I spent a few hours with Caledon Meals on Wheels experiencing first-hand how meaningful this program is. I also participated in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Tim Horton's Bowl for Kids' Sake in support of programs for Children and Youth. These two organizations and hundreds more could not provide the vital services and programs they do to our community and residents without volunteers. So the next time you see a coach, Brownie leader, senior services supporter, volunteer driver or the many other people who give their time so generously for the betterment of us all – say thank you.

On a final note, a reminder to be extra cautious on our roadways and in our residential areas as the warmer weather brings increased pedestrian traffic and children at play. Be safe and enjoy the spring season.

*Peel's mayors and Peel Regional Chair are invited in turn to contribute a column to Tough Times.*

*Next: Brampton's Linda Jeffrey or Mississauga's Bonnie Crombie, or Peel's Frank Dale.*



## PEEL REGIONAL LABOUR COUNCIL

*Invites everyone in Peel and beyond*  
to gather at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 28, 2015

MILESTONES OF LABOUR MONUMENT

Flower City Seniors Centre

(southwest corner of McLaughlin Road and Queen Street)

**honouring the memory of workers killed or injured in the workplace**





# Letters to the editor



*Tough Times welcomes letters from readers. Writers may use a pen name if they wish. Tough Times needs to know who you are, so include a phone number and address, but your identity will not be revealed without your permission. Letters may be edited. Email your letters to [toughtimestabloid@gmail.com](mailto:toughtimestabloid@gmail.com) or deliver to Knights Table, #4 - 287 Glidden Road, Brampton, ON L6W 1H9.*

## A wait is not home

Dear Editor,

I am confused looking at Peel Region's website to find that on the Application for Subsidized Housing in Peel, one could have a wait time of up to 21 years. I know that the Region received funding a few years ago from both levels of Government to address the issue of wait times. Did this money not make an impact since those listed wait times were approximately the same 10 years ago?

Further, in November 2010, "Building Foundations: Building Futures - Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy" was released by the government, setting out a new affordable housing framework for the province.

The vision is: "To improve Ontarians' access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing, and provide a solid foundation on which to secure employment, raise families and build strong communities".

What a great vision! But where is the action?

Now there's new legislation: Bill 73 -- Smart Growth for Our Communities Act, which Acorn Canada's Ontario chapter says "does NOTHING to solve the housing crisis in Ontario."

Why? Because it does not address inclusionary zoning, where private developers provide some units of affordable housing as a condition of planning approval for their projects.

Municipalities across Ontario need to be released from the province's handcuffs of red tape and be allowed to build affordable housing as they see fit for their communities.

All of us have an interest in affordable housing, whether we own our homes or rent.

Write to your member of the Ontario Legislature and tell her/him that we must have legislation that works! Inclusionary housing is what we need and want.

**Motilall Sarjoo**, Delegate, Peel Regional Labour Council

## Getting there

In 2005, the Ontario Government introduced the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), to make the province fully accessible by 2025 to 1.8 million Ontarians with disabilities.

The Government has only nine years, 10 months and a few days left to complete the job.

Under the Act, Ontario has developed accessibility standards to break down barriers in key areas of everyday life, including customer service, transportation, information and communication, employment, and the design of public spaces. Accessibility in buildings has been addressed through amendments to Ontario's Building Code: as of January 1 this year, new construction and major renovations in buildings will be subject to updated accessibility requirements.

The Government has developed tools to help businesses and organizations understand the standards and comply with their requirements. To find these tools and learn more about the AODA requirements, visit [Ontario.ca/accessON](http://Ontario.ca/accessON)

The reports may help the Government determine which reported barriers should be listed as a priority for AODA enforcement, and when action on enforcement should be launched.

A personal observation is that the Ontario Government, businesses and organizations

should consider whether monies spent in construction or reconstruction meets the needs of the public. For instance, one outdoor plaza used to have a sloping sidewalk rather than a curb. It was so easy to walk from the parking lot pavement to the sloping sidewalk without having to step up onto the sidewalk. The issue was walking across from the wheelchair parking space, avoiding the cars, to the sidewalk.

Recently, a new grocery store was added. The wheelchair parking spaces were moved with a dash of painted lines and the sloping sidewalks were replaced with high curbed sidewalks and poorly-constructed ramps that went against traffic. Mother's with baby carriages, delivery men and yes, the disabled, beware. Observe what ramps are best for you and when is the best time of day to venture out.

Life is always a challenge. As a child might ask their parent, "Why do I have to go to school? I can learn everything I need to know from you?" The parent smiles and replies, "I have taught you only the basics of life, you need to venture out and learn your own life basics and what is accessible."

The Ontario Government has a toll-free phone number for the public to report violations of the Accessibility Act: 1-866-515-2025, TTY: 1-800-268-7095

**Paula Anne Olthuis**

## Don't Go Hungry.



If you are struggling to make ends meet, have to choose between paying rent or buying food, or have more bills than income... The Mississauga Food Bank is here to help you.

Anyone in need and living in Mississauga can use a neighbourhood food bank or other member agency regardless of age, sexual orientation, race, religion, gender or immigration status.

Visit [www.themississaugafoodbank.org/getfood](http://www.themississaugafoodbank.org/getfood) or phone 905.270.5589 to find a member agency near you.



# Looking for a **SUMMER JOB?**

Each year the **Summer Job Challenge** provides at risk youth in Peel with an opportunity to gain valuable work experience throughout the summer in areas such as labour, administration and service delivery. Hired youth will work in entry-level positions for Region of Peel departments and local community agencies that provide services to residents.

Applicants must:

- Be between the ages of 16 and 24
- Be available to work full-time from July 3 to August 28, 2015
- Live in Brampton, Caledon or Mississauga

Rate of pay is \$11 per hour for 35 hours per week. No previous work experience is required. To be considered, applicants must fit the criteria and cannot have participated in a previous Summer Job Challenge or be related to a Region of Peel employee.

Interested youth can apply online at [peelregion.ca/hr](http://peelregion.ca/hr) on **May 11 and 12**. Applications will be accepted for two days only.

To find out if you qualify, email [SummerJobChallenge@peelregion.ca](mailto:SummerJobChallenge@peelregion.ca) or call 905-791-7800, ext. 8799.



## Are You Having a Baby?

Locations in  
• Mississauga  
• Brampton  
• Caledon

**FREE** Pregnancy Programs and Classes  
In-person or Online – It's Your Choice!

Receive up-to-date information and learning materials from Public Health Nurses

Learn about:

- Staying healthy during pregnancy
- Comfort measures during labour
- Caring for your newborn

Learn about:

- Breastfeeding
- Adjusting to parenthood
- Resources in your community



Find out which program is right for you

Call Region of Peel – Public Health at **905-799-7700**

More information visit **[PregnantInPeel.ca](http://PregnantInPeel.ca)**